



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

2013 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

COASTAL MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEES PROGRAM



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report summarizes the hard work of the Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) Program. We acknowledge the coordinators of MRCs in each county for their organization, vision, dedication and facilitation skills. Coordinators include: Rich Osborne (University of Washington), Tami Pokorny (Jefferson County), Garrett Dalan (Grays Harbor County), Megan Martin (Pacific Conservation District), and Carrie Backman and assistant coordinator Donna Westlind (WSU Wahkiakum County Extension).

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2013 Report to the Legislature
Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program
December 2013

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COASTAL MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEES PROGRAM

The goal of the Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program is to understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to coastal and state residents. Identifying and implementing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the unique conservation and management issues of Washington's outer coast requires utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders. Citizen-based Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) have proven to be an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, innovation, and wisdom of coastal residents.

MRCs are county-based, volunteer committees that carry out local projects and activities and advise the county on marine resource issues. MRCs are composed of representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, local citizens, and economic, recreational and conservation interests.

The Washington State Legislature endorsed and funded the MRC model in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. As directed by RCW 36.125, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) created the Coastal MRC program. The program provides support for the development, administration, and coordination of the coastal MRCs and their projects. All of the coastal counties, Clallam and Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific and Wahkiakum, have created unique MRCs and currently implement community-based projects.

Coastal MRC activities are guided by a set of interim program priorities, benchmarks, and a program goal statement that were developed by the Coastal MRC workgroup in 2009 (Appendix A). These measurements were developed to ensure coordination among MRCs, and to provide accountability to WDFW and the legislature. The program priorities are to: 1) establish and maintain coastal MRCs, 2) complement existing efforts, 3) build partnerships, 4) utilize science, and 5) promote healthy communities and resources. The program benchmarks focus on the following broad categories: 1) marine habitats, 2) marine life, 3) marine and fresh water quality, 4) sound science, 5) education, and 6) coastal communities. The following pages summarize each of the MRC activities during 2013 with the respective benchmarks that their activities address.

PROGRAM ACTIONS

WDFW RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIONS

Allocate programmatic funding for MRC activities and projects

- In 2013, WDFW awarded each county MRC \$38,500 for Operational and Project activities, from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Assist MRCs to measure their activities against regional performance benchmarks

- Performance benchmarks were developed by the Coastal MRC Work Group in 2009 to account for MRC activity.
- At the conclusion of each state fiscal year, MRCs are required to report annual activities and projects.

Support the coordination of MRC projects to complement regional priorities

- WDFW reports monthly to the State Ocean Caucus, the group designated to oversee implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan.
- Program staff continues to build awareness within WDFW and with other natural resource agencies regarding availability of MRC volunteers for marine resource projects on the coast.
- MRCs report regularly on their activities to the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council to coordinate project actions.

Coordinate and promote interactions among Coastal MRCs, other similar groups on issues of common interest

- WDFW and MRC representatives continue to provide briefings to County and State officials, the NW Straits Commission, the Washington Marine Debris Task Force, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council when appropriate.
- WDFW continues to maintain a website dedicated to the Coastal MRC Program providing updates and announcements for upcoming activities with links to current individual MRC websites that contain contact information for county based coordinators.



NORTH PACIFIC MRC –CLALLAM AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

Mission: The North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee will actively promote ecosystem resilience through understanding, conserving, and restoring our marine resources. This will be accomplished through research, education, community engagement and advocacy for our shared marine environment and the sustainability of its coastal communities.

North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee (NPC MRC) is the result of an Inter-Local Agreement between both Clallam and Jefferson Counties, allowing the two counties to share the West End MRC staff resources and funding. The current list of committee members shows the diversity of representatives appointed by the County Commissioners.

| North Pacific | | Coast MRC members |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Member | Organization | Representation |
| Tami Pokorny | Jefferson County | Government (Coordinator) |
| Steve Allison | Hoh Tribe | Government |
| Katie Krueger | Quileute Tribe | Government |
| Jennifer Hagen | Quileute Tribe | Government (alternate) |
| Dana Sarff | Makah Tribe | Government |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Rod Fleck | City of Forks | Government |
| Cathy Lear | Clallam County | Government |
| John Hunter | Clallam County | Education |
| Rich Osborne | Clallam County | Citizen and Volunteer Facilitator |
| Roy Morris | Clallam County | Citizen |
| John Richmond | Jefferson County | Citizen |
| Jill Silver | Jefferson County | Science |
| Chiggers Stokes | Jefferson County | Citizen |
| Liam Antrim | Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary | Ex-Officio |
| Kathy Steichen | Olympic National Park | Ex-Officio |
| Louis Johnson | Olympic National Park | Ex-Officio |
| Chris Byrnes | WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife | Ex-Officio |
| Ian Miller | WA Sea Grant | Ex-Officio |

The NPC MRC partnered with the Feiro Marine Life Center, the Seattle Aquarium, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, Discover Your Northwest, Inc., the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center, Jefferson County Environmental Health and the Clallam County Department of Community Development and others to complete a variety of projects in 2013. All of the program benchmarks were addressed through the various projects. Table 1 summarizes the NP MRC projects, along with cost and benchmarks addressed.

Project highlights for 2013 include; continued MRC representation and participation in the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council, continuing educational partnerships to support the Essential Ocean Literacy Principles and the Essential Principles of Climate Change, ongoing cleanup of marine debris from the North Coast beaches, production of the Whale Trail brochure to educate Clallam and Jefferson County citizens about migratory and resident marine mammal populations and where to view them, completion of an analysis of marine debris patterns on the North Coast beaches, production of the *West End Natural Resources News* and hosting the fourth annual Citizen Science Fair and barbecue.

The NP MRC identified priority actions for 2014 designed to focus on the MRC benchmarks. Projects will continue to address marine debris along the North Coast and provide support to educate students in Clallam and Jefferson Counties on marine resource issues in their communities. The NP MRC plans to continue to provide superb public outreach through future publications of the *West End Natural Resources News* and look for ways to expand on the success of the annual Citizen Science Fair and barbecue.

Table 1. 2013 NP MRC projects by benchmark

| Project Name | MRC Award | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| MRC Coordination and Operations | \$39,000 | | | | | | |
| Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation | Cost included in Operations budet | | | | | | |
| The North Pacific Continuing Education Partnerships | \$12,350 | | | | | | |
| Tracking Marine Debris Associated with the Japanese Tsunami | \$6,723 | | | | | | |
| Washington Coast Cleanup 2013: North Pacific Coast Area | \$8,055 | | | | | | |
| Whale Trail Brochure | \$3,000 | | | | | | |
| Natural Resources Cluminating Projects in Quillaute Valley School Distric | \$2,647 | | | | | | |
| West End Natural Resource News | \$6,000 | | | | | | |
| Science Fair | \$750 | | | | | | |

Benchmark Addressed

Benchmark Not Addressed





GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY MRC

Mission: The Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues, recommend remedial actions to local, state, and federal authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for the remedies consistent with the Benchmarks of Performance as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group.

Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee (GHC MRC) was the first of the Coastal counties to establish an MRC by county resolution in 2009. Below is the current list of representatives on the advisory committee appointed by the County Commissioners.

Grays Harbor County MRC members

| Member | Organization | Representation |
|---------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Garrett Dalan | Grays Harbor County | Coordinator |
| Al Smith | Citizen | Local Citizen |
| Alan Rammer | Citizen | Citizen at Large |
| Arthur "RD Grunbaum | Citizen | Local Citizen |
| Birdie Davenport | WA Department of Natural Resources | State Government |
| Brady Engval | Brady's Oysters | Aquaculture |
| Casey Dennehy | Surfrider Foundation | Recreation |
| Eric Delvin | The Nature Conservancy | Conservation and Environment |
| Greg Hinz | Coast Seafoods | Aquaculture |
| Harv Lellegard | Olympia Master Builders | Economic |
| Joe Schumacker | Quinault Indian Nation | Tribal Government |
| Lorena Maurer | Citizen | Chair, Education |
| Mark Plackett | Ocean Shores Citizen | Local Citizen |
| Ray Toste | WA Dungeness Crab Fisherman's Association | Commercial Fishing |
| Robin Leraas | Port of Grays Harbor | Local Government |
| Shad Kearse | Citizen | Recreational Fishing |

The GHC MRC partnered with Grays Harbor County, Grays Harbor County Schools, Washington Clean Coast Alliance, the Quinault Indian Nation, The Nature Conservancy, Feiro Marine Life Center, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and the Seattle Aquarium to complete their projects in 2013. Table 2 summarizes the GHC MRC projects, along with cost and benchmarks addressed.

Project highlights include completion of the three year derelict gear removal work led by the Quinault Indian Nation and the Nature Conservancy. The GH MRC provided funding support for the annual Washington Coast Cleanup, which attracts hundreds of volunteers to remove ocean



debris and trash from South Coast Beaches. Project funding was also provided to continue to offer the successful marine science education program, *Ocean Science*, to the students and families of Grays Harbor and to train middle school teachers on the issues surround the use of marine resources and their associated habitats in Grays Harbor County.

The GHC MRC plans to continue to put a high priority on projects that support coastal communities through education and outreach in 2014. Projects will include ocean acidification curriculum planning tied to local shellfish aquaculture to local teachers, and support an education and outreach project directed at preschool aged children through the Aberdeen School District. The GHC MRC will continue to provide representation and participation on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council and continue to support projects focused on beach cleanup in the South Coast region.

Table 2. 2013 GHC MRC projects by benchmark

| Project Name | MRC Award | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| MRC Coordination and Operations | \$20,000 | | | | | | |
| Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation | \$70 | | | | | | |
| Marine Debris Project -Beach Cleanup Support | \$2,500 | | | | | | |
| Abandoned Gear Removal Project Support | \$2,225 | | | | | | |
| Trash Free Seas- Classroom Marine Science Education Support | \$4,200 | | | | | | |
| Marine Resources Teacher Workshop | \$8,670 | | | | | | |
| Watershed Festival | \$835 | | | | | | |

Benchmark Addressed

Benchmark Not Addressed





PACIFIC COUNTY MRC

Mission: The Pacific County Marine Resource Committee serves as a steward for the marine and estuarine resources in our county by facilitating science based policies, research, and education that enhance the sustainability of the economy and ecology of our communities.

Pacific County Marine Resource Committee (PCMRC) is made up of 28 dedicated individuals (seats and alternates) appointed by Pacific County Commissioners, representing a wide variety of interests.

Pacific County MRC members

| Member | MRC Representation | Alternate |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Megan Martin | Coordinator/Facilitator | None |
| Mike Nordin | Local Government | Tim Crose |
| Doug Kess | Local Citizen | Open |
| Michael Spencer | Recreation | Open |
| Kathy Russ | Economic | Open |
| Tom Kollasch | Conservation and Environmental | Open |
| Kim Patton | Science | Key McMurry |
| Ray Gardner | Tribal Government | Open |
| Tim Morriss | Aquaculture | Brian Sheldon |
| Dale Beasely | Commercial Fishing | Dwight Eager |
| Mike Cassinelli | Local Government | Open |
| Jackie Ferrier | State and Federal Government | Allen Lebovitz |
| Kathleen Sayce | Education | Open |
| Warren Cowell | Aquaculture | Open |
| Jim Neva | Port of Ilwaco | Mary DeLong |

PCMRC partnered with Pacific County, Pacific Conservation District, the Grass Roots Garbage Gang, Watershed Restoration Management, and Washington State University Long Beach Research and Extension Unit to complete a variety of projects in 2013. Table 3 summarizes the PCMRC projects, along with cost and benchmarks addressed.

2013 project highlights include; continued representation and participation on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council, three beach cleanup events to remove marine debris from Pacific County beaches, a continuation of a 2012 project to remove debris from the high water mark in remote water-accessed areas of Willapa Bay. Funding was provided for field trip transportation of 130 Pacific County students where they conducted a beach cleanup and ecosystem study. Project funding was used to study and report on the recruitment of burrowing shrimp in Willapa Bay. The PCMRC hosted their fourth annual Science Conference with

presenters providing Pacific County citizens with information on issues such as; coastal shellfish management, migratory bird use of Willapa Bay, and habitat usage by juvenile salmonids.

Project priorities for 2014 will include continuation of successful projects such as the Grass Roots Garbage Gang beach cleanup and Stewards of Our Peninsula projects and hosting the fifth annual science conference in the spring of 2014. In addition, PCMRC will focus new projects on water quality education, support for South Bend High School and opportunities for Ocean Park Elementary School students to join other northwest students to explore field based science concepts as they relate to natural resources. PCMRC will continue to provide representation and participation on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council.



Table 3. 2013 PCMRC projects by benchmark

| Project Name | MRC Award | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| MRC Coordination and Operations | \$20,000 | | | | | | |
| Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation | \$450 | | | | | | |
| Beach Cleanup | \$3,500 | | | | | | |
| Willapa Bay Cleanup | \$5,000 | | | | | | |
| Stewards of Our Peninsula | \$1,048 | | | | | | |
| Science Conference | \$2,500 | | | | | | |
| Website Maintenance | \$300 | | | | | | |
| Willapa Bay Burrowing Shrimp Monitoring | \$5,702 | | | | | | |

Benchmark Addressed

Benchmark Not Addressed



WAHKIAKUM COUNTY MRC

Mission: The Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues; recommend remedial actions to local, state, tribal, and federal authorities; and build local awareness of the issues and support for the remedies consistent with the interim "Benchmarks of Performance" as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group on January 7, 2009.

The Wahkiakum County MRC (WC MRC) is made up a diverse group of local residents. Members are selected by the County Commission to ensure balanced representation from local government, local residents, scientific experts, economic, recreational, and environmental and conservation interests.

Wahkiakum County MRC members

| Member | MRC Representation | Organization |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Carrie Backman | Coordinator | WSU Wahkiakum County Extension |
| Donna Westlind | Assistant Coordinator | WSU Wahkiakum County Extension |
| George Wehrfritz | Local Government | Town of Cathlamet |
| Abe York | Co-Chair | Wahkiakum Port District 1 |
| Kayrene Gilbersten | Local Government | Wahkiakum Port District 2 |
| Carol Everest | Local Resident | Citizen |
| George Exum | Environmental and Conservation | Citizen |
| Pat Frazier | Scientific Expert | WA Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Mike Clark | Economic | Commercial Fisherman |
| Mike Backman | Co-Chair, Economic | Commercial Fisherman |
| Jeff Rooklidge | Environmental and Conservation | Wahkiakum School District |
| Kent Martin | Economic | Commercial Fisherman |
| Vacant | Local Resident | |
| Vacant | Scientific Expert | |
| Vacant | Recreational | |

WC MRC partnered with The Washington State University Wahkiakum County Extension, Town of Cathlamet, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wahkiakum School District, Wahkiakum Port Districts 1 and 2, Elochoman Slough Marina, and Columbia Riverkeeper to complete their projects in 2013. Table 4 summarizes the WC RC projects, along with cost and benchmarks addressed.

MRC highlights for 2013 were several projects that provided strong support for coastal communities in Wahkiakum County by sponsoring a public conference to explore the community's ideas about how to develop Cathlamet's historic waterfront, providing support for a community summit to highlight WC MRC activities and engage local citizens on Columbia River Estuary issues and, providing a forum for ongoing discussions with members of the commercial fishing industry and local and state government on ways to support the commercial fishing industry in Wahkiakum County. WC MRC continued a project started in 2012 to assess community need and support for dredging tributaries in Wahkiakum County.

WC MRC supported a citizen science project to monitor seals and sea lions and their predation in the Lower Columbia River within Wahkiakum County. Funds were provided to the Wahkiakum School District to enhance the marine education component of the biology class by supporting field trips that allowed students to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail by kayak and to learn about the importance of healthy forest ecosystems and their role in protecting aquatic estuarine ecosystems, and the importance of salmon to Native Americans from Quinault Indian Nation biologists.

Priority projects for 2014 will continue work started in 2013 including providing support for additional field trips for Wahkiakum School District high school students to explore historical and environmental factors occurring in the Columbia River ecosystem. WC MRC plans to continue the citizen science pinniped project to collect observations on the biology, diet and migration patterns of seals and sea lions in the Lower Columbia River Estuary. The WC MRC will conduct additional surveys and a review of historical information on the mouths of tributaries and to assess community need and support for dredging in Wahkiakum County. WC MRC will provide funding to develop new panels for the award winning Columbia River Fisheries Exhibit initially funded in 2012. The new panels will highlight challenges and work being undertaken on behalf of salmon recovery and trace salmon migration from the Columbia River and demonstrate how different communities along the migratory route benefit from Columbia River salmonids. WC MRC will continue to provide representation and participation on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council.

The Wahkiakum County MRC also hosted the 2013 Coastal MRC Summit in Cathlamet, Washington on November 7-9. Funding for the Summit was provided entirely by the Surfrider Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. Summit topics included; facilitating collaborative meetings, updates from each coastal MRC, Shoreline Master Planning updates, ocean acidification, marine plastic pollution, and the science of hatchery and harvest reform.



Table 4. 2013 WC MRC projects by benchmark

| Project Name | MRC Award | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| MRC Coordination and Operations | \$20,000 | | | | | | |
| Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation | \$350 | | | | | | |
| Cathlamet Waterfront Visioning Conference | \$1,050 | | | | | | |
| Columbia River Pinniped Project | \$1,728 | | | | | | |
| Cathlamet and Grays River Dredging Assessment | \$1,249 | | | | | | |
| Marine Education Field Trips | \$3,000 | | | | | | |
| Elochoman Slough Marina Fish Cleaning Station and Informational Signs | \$1,275 | | | | | | |
| Wahkiakum MRC Promotional Materials | | | | | | | |
| Wahkiakum County Summit | \$2,200 | | | | | | |
| Columbia River Water Quality Monitoring Project | \$3,629 | | | | | | |
| Columbia River Fisheries Eshibit Brochures | \$380 | | | | | | |
| Cathlamet Channel Fishery Discussion | \$1,250 | | | | | | |

Benchmark Addressed

Benchmark Not Addressed



CONCLUSION

The Coastal MRC Program is well established and enjoys strong support from coastal counties, federal and state natural resource agencies, citizens, and industry and conservation groups. These entities and the MRCs themselves are well aware that in tight budget times, relatively small grants to local MRCs are a cost effective way to ensure that marine resources are well managed, protected, and, where necessary, restored. Providing local groups with funding to support their top priorities sends a powerful message of trust and value in local communities. The carefully crafted parameters of the Coastal MRC Program provide assurance to WDFW and the Legislature that MRCs will contribute to improved stewardship of coastal resources. Through minimal funding for MRC coordinators, the Coastal MRC Program provides essential support to local jurisdictions to continue promoting conservation of marine resources. County-based MRC coordinators report good attendance at meetings and enthusiasm for the flexibility offered by the MRC model. In this way, MRCs provide a positive outlet for citizens to contribute to making their communities a better place to live and work in the ways they choose.

In conclusion, Coastal MRCs provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities, help promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources, and complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources. Future coastal MRC work is dependent on continued funding at or above the current level. MRCs are providing a vehicle for community visioning and consensus building, supporting coastal resource based communities, improving access to marine resources, filling science gaps, improving education, and preventing future resource degradation. MRCs also provide a direct connection between coastal residents and state policy and management related to ocean resources. WDFW is pleased to continue supporting the work of coastal counties and looks forward to working with citizens and local entities to continue building the Coastal MRC Program.

For additional supporting materials, reports, documents and links to individual MRC websites mentioned in this report visit the Coastal MRC Program Website:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/>

COASTAL MRC PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND BENCHMARKS

The following priority statements, developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group, are used to guide the development of the Coastal MRC Program and focus the work of coastal MRCs. These priorities – or operating principles – include:

Establish MRCs

- Establish coastal MRCs in order to provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities
- Ensure MRC and program accountability and alignment with regional priorities by measuring performance against program benchmarks
- Act in consult with tribal and state co-managers
- Ensure that local residents are selected and participate in MRCs

Complement existing efforts

- Complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

Build partnerships

- Coordinate and communicate with MRCs, the Northwest Straits Commission, tribal and state co-managers, local, regional, federal, and other stakeholders and organizations about local and regional projects and issues
- Expand partnerships with tribal governments and continue to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties

Utilize science

- Conduct scientific investigations and monitoring efforts to fill key gaps in knowledge about valuable coastal species and habitats (e.g. ecosystem-based management)
- Monitor and assess impacts of coastal and marine development

Promote healthy communities and resources

- Promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources
- Promote marine resources stewardship through community volunteer opportunities and public education efforts
- Promote coastal hazards awareness and community preparedness through education and outreach programs
- Support the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats, and marine populations to healthy and sustainable levels and prevent future state and federal species listings
- Conduct and implement strategic planning to identify marine resources related threats to and opportunities for sustainability
- Assess sources of and reduce marine and estuarine pollution and debris

Performance benchmarks are used by the Coastal MRC Program to account for MRC activities and achievement in discrete but broad categories. Benchmarks developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program include:

Marine Habitats: Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:

- Enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
- Designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
- Surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
- Making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
- Understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices

Marine Life: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- Maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further ESA listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
- Balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
- Identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
- Designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- Making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery

Marine and Fresh Water Quality: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:

- Conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
- Working to reduce the input of pollutants
- Promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
- Working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

Sound Science: Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:

- Utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
- Identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
- Promoting peer reviewed science

Education and Outreach: Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:

- Informing the public about threats to living resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
- Informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
- Coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
- Engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming,
- Translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington's coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
- Expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- Striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers

Coastal Communities: Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:

- Supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
- Supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
- Encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
- Engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
- Increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest

